

Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

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Walker Legislation Signed Into Law By Governor Perry

Austin-Seventeen pieces of legislation authored or sponsored by Representative Gary L. Walker (R-Plains) have been signed into law by Governor Rick Perry in the weeks following the legislative session. Representative Walker's legislation for the 77th session included several bills providing for the management of the state's groundwater resources, as well as proposals brought to him by constituents.

"I am thrilled to know my work this session has paid off and my bills have been signed into law," Chairman Walker stated. Under Texas law, the Governor has three options when considering a piece of legislation. He can veto the measure, sign the bill into law, or he can let the bill become law without his signature.

Representative Walker is very pleased the Governor signed HB 7, which creates the Office of Rural Community Affairs. The creation of this new agency will assure a continuing focus on rural issues on a statewide level. Additionally, it is proposed the agency will

monitor governmental actions affecting rural Texas, research problems and recommended solutions.

"Up to this point, there has been no central focus for the programs of assistance to the citizens of rural Texas," Walker stated. "Initially, the Office of Rural Community Affairs will administer federal housing funds and have general oversight over rural health initiatives. I am hopeful the new agency will serve our rural areas well."

As Chairman of the House Committee on Land and Resource Management, Walker was also concerned about the fate of bills considered by the Governor passing through his committee. Of the 57 bills passed out of his committee and made it to Governor Perry's desk, only one was voted.

"Certainly, I feel a sense of responsibility as a committee chairman to try and pass out bills I feel are in the best interests of the State. I am encouraged the bills my committee considered and passed were viewed by Governor Perry as good public policy," Chairman Walker commented.

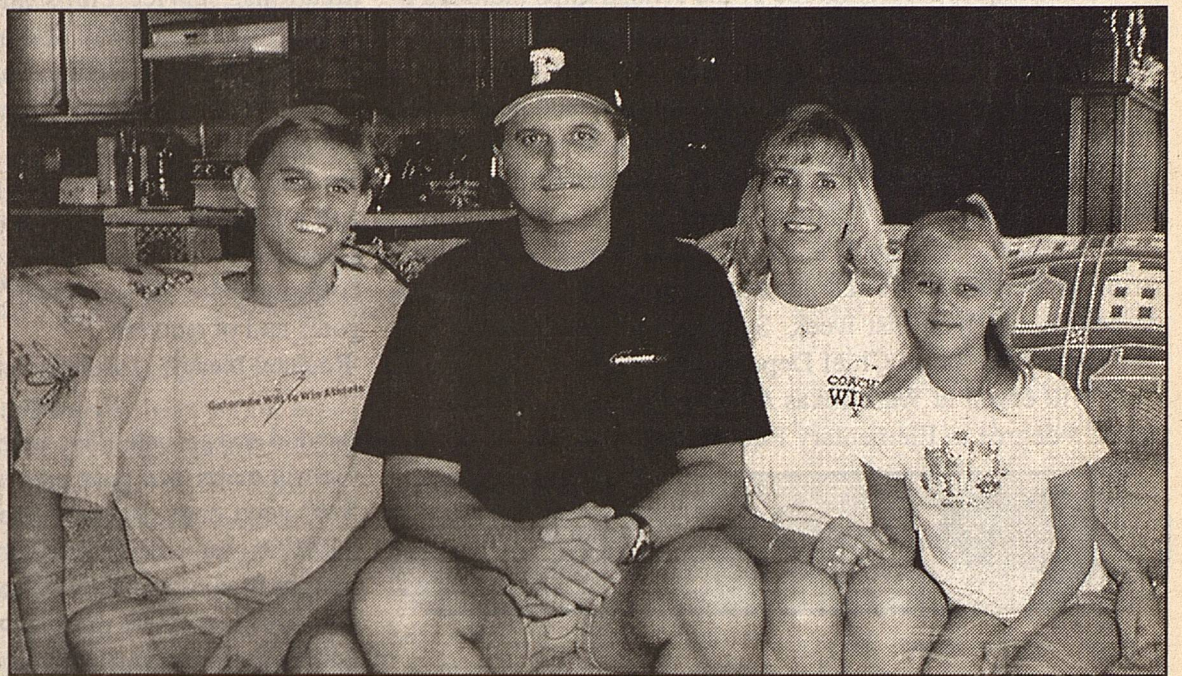
Plea bargain guilty pleas in District Court

In 121st Judicial Court June 19, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, James Penner pled guilty to burglary of a habitation, a second degree felony. A five year state prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. He will make time payments on \$327 court costs, and was fined \$1000, and must pay \$20 restitution to Cathy Sue Ferguson. He must serve 240 hours community service, and serve 10 days in jail, or until space is available in the Ray D. Anderson Community Correction Facility in Brownfield for not less than one month or more than 24 months. He must pay all debts incurred as a resident, and all related expenses of his residency. Paul Mansur was his attorney.

Ernie James Hildebrand also pled guilty to the same burglary of a habitation cause. His five year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. Turn to Page 2, District Court

Plains ISD hires baseball coach

Eddie Carter to concentrate on Middle School administration



The Bartley's - Kevin II, Kevin, Darla and Kelbi

Both the Plains School District and the City of Plains benefitted by the District's Board of Trustees decision to hire Kevin Bartley as Plains High head baseball coach - the school gains two students, the City gains four new residents, and the Kevin Bartley family includes a wife and mom who will be seeking employment when they get settled in.

Former baseball coach Eddie Carter earlier told the administration and Trustees he felt his dual role as coach and Principal of Plains Middle School was not allowing him to effectively devote his full time and talents to either position, and asked to be relieved of his coaching duties.

When the Fall semester of school starts August 21, Kevin Bartley, 39, will be a familiar sight around the elementary and middle school campuses. He will assist with kindergarten and first grade swimmers, work in the elementary P.E. program, and head up the middle school 7th grade girls basketball program. He will also serve as an assistant football coach.

Kevin considers Andrews his hometown. He started his higher education at Hardin Simmons University in 1980 on a baseball scholarship. He later left college, then returned to earn a BS degree from Angelo State University in 1998. He also served as a graduate assistant baseball coach at ASU. A little later, he served as a substitute defensive baseball coach at Andrews High in 1999, the year the Mustangs won the

4-AAAA state baseball title. He comes here from Big Lake (Reagan County ISD) where he was head baseball coach two years.

He and his wife Darla have three children; Cayla, a 19 year old daughter in her sophomore year at ASU; Kevin II, who will be a Junior at PHS this fall; and daughter Kelbi, a 3rd grader this Fall. Darla told CCN when she gets her family fully settled in here, she would like to find a job. She has banking experience and served as teacher's aide in Big Lake.

Coach Bartley said he was very excited about coming to Plains ISD. "I was just without words when I got a tour of the Cowboy baseball facility. I haven't seen the lights on yet, but everyone tells me they are state of the art, and I am so very grateful we have such fine grounds - it will be great to have an actual good dirt infield."

Bartley is well aware the fledgling two year old PHS baseball program faces a tough building process. "That doesn't bother me. I look forward to it. I understand we have lots of work to do. I helped start the baseball program in Tulia many years ago. I'm ready to go to work."

When you meet the family, do not make the mistake the Editor did. Refer to the younger Kevin as Kevin II, Kevin Dos, Kevin Deuce, Kevin Segundo, but do NOT call him Kevin Junior.

Helping Feed Houston



For more than two recent weeks, scenes such as these were common place in the sprawling hospital area of Houston, with hundreds of volunteer workers preparing meals to serve hospital patients in a number of facilities hard hit by devastating Tropical Storm Allison. The hospital kitchens were flooded and condemned by the Health Department, and a number of Texas Baptist Men disaster relief units and crews, with the assistance of the Red Cross, responded to the emergency. Plains First Baptist Church's disaster relief, state of the art trailer and two volunteer crews played a very large role in feeding the hungry. See more photos and story on the humanitarian effort on Page Three.



Who Tests The TAAS ?

Central Texas newspaper on crusade to dispel myths about Texas Assessment of Academic Skills testing

The Lone Star ICONOCLAST, published weekly in Crawford, Texas, is working hard to take some of the luster off perceived achievements of the State Legislature mandated TAAS test of public school students in the state since the 1980's. Columnist Don M. Fisher, with approval of Iconoclast Publisher W. Leon Smith, has mailed CCN the last two issues of their weekly containing extensive and carefully researched articles assailing the TAAS test, and warning of the perils of TAAS II, scheduled to go into effect in 2003. CCN was invited to share any and all information in the articles.

Fisher wrote on June 8, "TAAS scores are at a record high. No

one knows what that means. The passing rate improved to 89 percent overall passage this year, but there is no way of telling if this means the children of Texas are actually learning more as a result of the approximate \$40 million per year the state spends on TAAS.

"The Texas Education Agency (TEA) says TAAS is based on a more demanding state curriculum, and if students are testing well, schools are teaching well, students are learning more. Critics charge all we have done is dictate classroom content from Austin and teach students to take a test."

In the June 15 issue of Iconoclast, Don Fisher continues, "More than half of Texas

eighth graders would not have passed this year's TAAS if it had been graded by the same standards they will face in two years. This year's TAAS scores would have dropped 11 to 19 percent on a tougher test like TAAS II, according to state assessment figures released last week.

"The released figures were for third through eighth grades, the first Texas children who will have to pass TAAS II. The 11 percent decline represents some 25,500 children who would not have passed the reading, writing or math tests. But on science and social studies, which this year's eighth graders will

Turn to Page 4, "Who Tests The TAAS?"

Lexi Warren receives scholarship from Texas Chief Deputy Association



Jerry Howard, Paul Scarborough, Lexi, Teresa Howard

PHS 2001 graduate Lexi Warren recently received a \$750 scholarship from The Texas Chief Deputies Association, one of only two awarded to children of Texas Peace Officers or Jailers.

Requirements for receiving one of the scholarships included a brief biographical sketch written by the applicant, and explaining why he/she is deserving of the honor. Lexi's letter outlined her Plains High activities, UIL competitions, and scholastic achievements including graduating fourth in her class with a 94.3 grade point average. She also detailed her numerous activities as a member of First Baptist Church.

Paul Scarborough, Chief Deputy in the Lubbock Sheriff Department, presented the scholarship to Lexi and her family in the courthouse here last week. Scarborough is also 3rd Vice President of the Texas Chief Deputies Association.

Lexi Will enroll at West Texas A&M this Fall. She intends to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

New Department Designed To Better Serve Growers

The recent addition of three new areas to the boll weevil eradication effort in the state has prompted the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to create a new department designed to increase communication and service to cotton producers.

The foundation will conduct operations on more than 6 million acres of cotton this growing season. With such a large operation, foundation officials wanted to make sure the organization maintained a personal touch with Texas cotton producers and establishes a Producer Relations Department.

Members of the department will be available for presentations to growers, grower organizations, service clubs and other groups. They will also be actively involved in educating the public about the foundation's mission.

In addition, the department will work with state and federal agencies and legislatures to communicate the program's goals and objectives.

Rachael Neagle, formerly as-

sistant communications director, has been tapped to head the department. Melissa Pierce, producer relations specialist, will work with Neagle and concentrate primarily on the Southern High Plains and Northern High Plains zones, anchored by Lubbock and Plainview, where more than a third of the state's cotton is grown. Pierce, a Plainview native, is new to the foundation and brings a strong background in agriculture to her position. As a member of a family who farms near Petersburg, she has been involved in agriculture her whole life. She attended Texas Tech University, graduating with a degree in agricultural communications.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation seeks to maintain Texas' position as the nation's leading cotton producer by eliminating the damage caused by the crop's most consistent threat. The foundation operates 11 eradication zones that cover most of the state.

From Pg. 2, Dist. Court

guilty to a third or more DWI charge. His ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated 10 years. He must pay a \$1000 fine and \$237 court costs with time payments. He must serve 160 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings, surrender his driver license 90 days, install an ignition interlock device on any vehicle driven, and serve 28 days in jail. His lawyer was Bill Helwig. Criminal District Attorney Richards Clark represented the state in all cases.

pendent and probated five years. He will make time payments on \$267 court costs, and was fined \$1000. A charge of possession of less than two ounces of marijuana was adjudicated. He must serve 240 hours community service, and spend 10 days in jail or until space is available in the Anderson Correction Facility, where he will remain no less than one month nor longer than 24 months. He will be responsible for all expenses of his confinement. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig. Cayetano Anthony Gonzales pled

SPC To Offer Rifle Proficiency Courses

With the growing interest in the sport of rifle marksmanship, South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, will offer two basic and advanced firearms courses specializing in rifle proficiency this fall.

The courses in rifle proficiency are offered through the college's law enforcement program and will provide a collegiate counterpart for students who want to develop and improve their skills in the highly competitive, growing sport.

"We hope to take young people who have been competitive at the high school level in 4-H rifle marksmanship and other activities and bring them into competitive skills at the college level," said Larry Nichols, chairperson of the Professional Services and Energy Department and professor of law enforcement technology. "They use highly specialized firearms, which are sighted with a great deal of accuracy."

Students will need to demonstrate a level of proficiency in rifle marksmanship to enroll and need to furnish .22 caliber rifles. The class is open to both young men and women.

Students will attend lectures and also get hands on training in SPC's state of the art pistol firing range.

The beginning course will be an introduction to three position rifle shooting and will meet 6-10 pm Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

Instructor will be Rick Monger from Sundown, Texas, who has worked with the Texas 4-H rifle team and, as a National Rifle Association counselor, is certified in rifle, pistol, shotgun and personal defense.

For more information, contact Larry Nichols, chairperson of SPC's Professional Services and Energy Department at 806-894-9611, ext. 2291 or e-mail him at lnichols@spc.cc.tx.us.

SPC Accepting Students For Night Police Academy

South Plains College is now accepting applications for the evening Basic Peace Officer Academy, which begins September 4. Classes will meet 5:45-10:30 pm Monday thru Wednesday for 12 months in the SPC Law Enforcement-Petroleum Technology Building.

The 560 hour course meets requirements set by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education those wishing to take the peace officer licensing exam.

The course covers basic topics such as Texas laws and

procedural requirements, use of force, human relations, professionalism and ethics, fitness and wellness, strategies of defense, criminal investigations and many others.

Applicants must be 21 years of age and have completed high school or the equivalent. Applicants need to complete admission requirements, complete a counseling data packet and pay a non-refundable application fee.

For more information, contact SPC at 806-894-9611 ext 2291 or 2342.



Obituary

Services Held For Buster Boulter

L. L. "Buster" Boulter, 83, of Denver City died Wednesday morning, June 20, 2001, at the Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Denver City.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 23, 2001 in the Denver City Church of Christ, with Skip Rodgers officiating. Burial followed in the Denver City Memorial Park under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home.

Buster was born June 12, 1918 in Healdton, Oklahoma. He married Mutt Boulter on November 12, 1944 in Birmingham, Ark. She preceded him in death on March 8, 1999. Buster served in the Air Force in Africa during WWII. He moved to Denver City in 1937 and lived there until 1949 when he moved to Hobbs. He moved back to Denver City in 1957. He was a charter member of the Denver City Fire Department. He owned and operated Boulter Tire & Service from 1957 to

1964. He owned and operated North Main Grocery Store and also Pick-N Pay Grocery in Plains. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include one son: Dale & wife, Myrna of Denver City; two brothers, Dee Boulter of Borger & Bob Boulter of Oklahoma City; a sister, Gene Shaw of Albuquerque, NM; two grandchildren: Jim & wife Syree of Temple, TX & Emily Boulter of Athens; a great grandchild, Ethan Drake Boulter of Temple.

Pallbearers were Terrell Givens, Roy Ferguson, Tommy Allison, Darrell Rogers, David Reves and Leon Gooch.

Honorary Pallbearers were Clifford Kyzer, Johnny Sims, Bill Groves and Edgar Self.

June in Texas - Battle at Adobe Walls north of Amarillo, June 27 1874. June 28, 1919- 19th amendment granting women right to vote ratified by State Legislature

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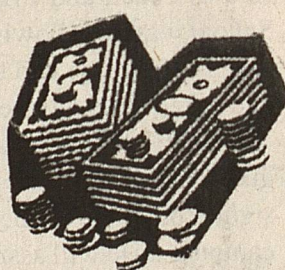
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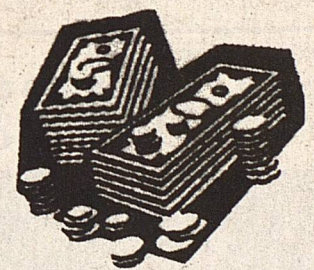
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Scholarships Available!



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Helping feed Houston... continued



In dim morning hours Plains volunteers prepare meals for hospital patients

Picture this: Your church is called and asked to assist in feeding thousands of hungry victims of Allison, the tropical storm which devastated Houston and much of the southern and eastern coastal area a few weeks ago. A disaster relief team is quickly assembled, and within hours are on the long road to Houston. When they arrive around midnight at one of the feeding stations helping a number of flooded, large hospitals, they do not go to bed, they go to work, preparing breakfast for hospital patients, and when that task is completed, they pitch in on the noon meal.

This was the scenario when the First Baptist Church relief team, associated with the Texas Baptist Men's statewide relief organization, first arrived in Houston. Marc Traweek, the 'Blue Cap' leader of the crew, was assisted by FBC members Robert Canon, Kyley Bearden, Jerri Lollar, David Lollar, Kay Sellers, Brad Friesen and Ricky Henson. The other team leader, Jared Sellers, was assigned 'White Cap' honors, and was responsible for coordinating the efforts of a number of other relief units on the scene. The first FBC team in Houston worked with and from a relief unit from a Dallas group of Baptist churches, a large semi-truck mounted trailer with cooking supplies and equipment. The team members unanimously agreed, it was a very long, hard and hot week.

The local church then received a call from Houston, asking for a relief crew to journey to Houston

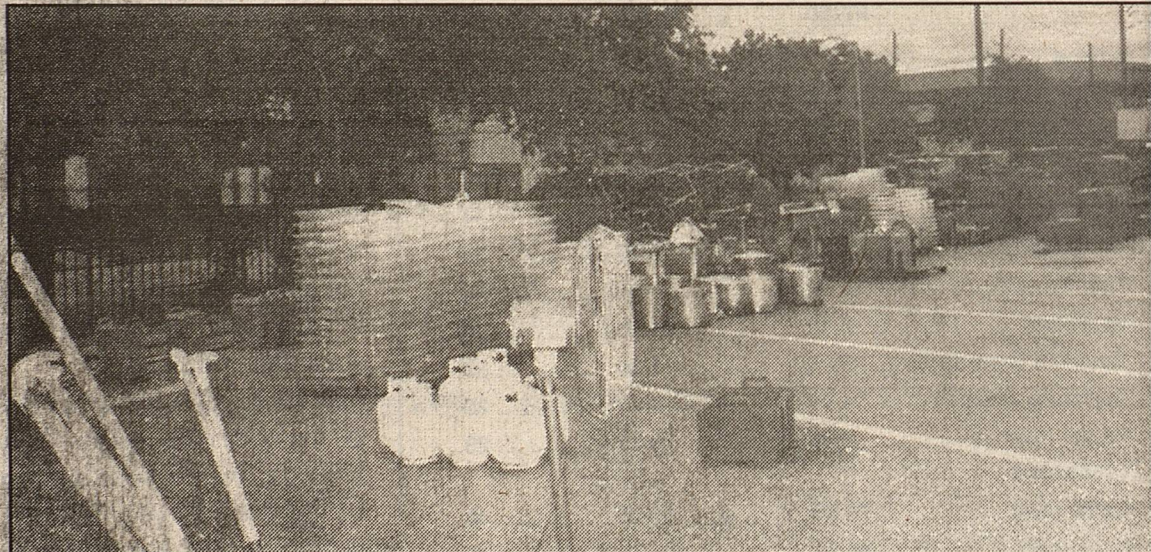
with the church's own relief trailer. The relief team was made up of 'Blue Cap' Jeff Roper, Melba Crutcher, Linda Wright, Linda Harris, Chris McGinty, Chris Gscheidle and Justin Bennett. Pastor Bill Wright and Shayne Griffiths also later traveled to Houston to lend a hand.

The local groups helped prepare an estimated total of 350 to 400 thousand meals during their stay in Houston. Some of the hardest hit hospitals served included Hermann, Saint Luke's, Methodist and the Texas Children's Hospital.

Many Houston school cafeterias were also flooded and needed assistance. The Plains disaster trailer and crew in one day prepared almost 9,000 meals, and a total of over 30,000 meals.

The two crews did not enjoy resort or vacation type amenities; They slept in bed rolls on cots, endured stifling heat and incredible humidity following the storm, and were plagued with mosquitos. One young female team member seemed especially desirable prey for the pests, and she reported she killed several on her body "as large as a Grackle!"

Brother Bill Wright said, "While we were in Houston, many other relief workers and Red Cross people expressed their amazement we could perform the work our members did, and found it hard to believe one small church, in one small town, could support such a program. This is truly the work of our church members, and the Lord's guiding hand. I am so proud of these people and our church members."



The logistics for the huge relief effort in Houston were staggering. Dozens upon dozens of semi-truck and tractor rigs delivered mountains and tons of food, supplies and equipment needed to feed unknown thousands during the almost three week program



Lea County Electric honors Gary Walker

The following letter addressed to State Representative Gary Walker was mailed from Lovington June 21, 2001;

Dear Gary;

Thank you for helping us with House Bill 1692. As I am sure you know, Governor Perry signed the legislation Friday, June 15.

The bill will stop a California-like catastrophe from happening in the Panhandle of Texas and to all of Lea County Electric's members on both sides of the state line.

In light of the redistricting issue with which you are confronted, House Bill 1692 is a remarkable piece of work. We recognize it as a "team" effort and will likewise express our gratitude to Mr. Laney and Mr. Chisholm. Mr. Chisholm graciously allowed me to speak at a meeting designed to resolve disputes over the bill. (Lea County Electric was not supposed to be heard; it had been stated our concerns were not important.) After allowing me to speak, Mr. Chisholm permitted our language to be re-inserted into the bill. I am certain we were allowed to speak and be represented because of you. While there is plenty of gratitude to go around, we're most grateful for you and your work on our behalf. Thank you.

Gratefully,
Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Michael A. Dreyspring
Executive Vice President & General Manager

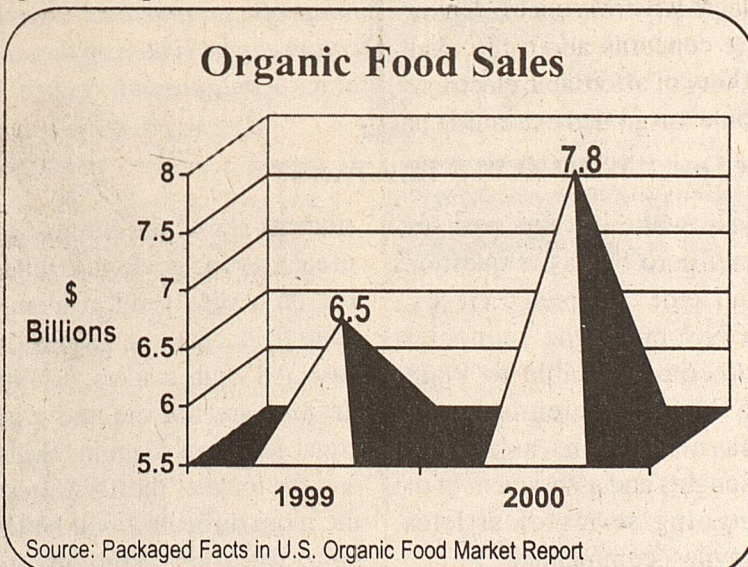
Organic Food facts & figures

Consumers will begin to see new organic labeling on products in their local grocery stores by summer of 2001, with full implementation by mid-2002.

Organic farming was one of the fastest growing segments of U.S. agriculture during the 1990's. USDA estimates the value of retail sales of organic foods in 1999 at approximately \$6 billion. The number of organic farmers is increasing by about 12 percent per year and now stands at some 12,000 nationwide, most of them small scale producers. According to a recent USDA study, certified organic cropland more than

doubled from 1992 to 1997. Two organic livestock sectors, eggs and dairy, grew even faster.

Fresh fruits and vegetables have been the top selling category of organically grown food since the organic food industry began retailing products some three decades ago, and they are still outselling other food categories, according to Packaged Facts. Produce accounted for 42 percent of U.S. organic food sales in 2000, followed by packaged groceries, dairy, bulk and frozen foods, beverages, meat, snacks and candy.



Crime cases in County Court

Eleven criminal cases were heard in County Court June 20, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Richard Clark, Criminal District Attorney, represented the state in all cases.

Alonzo Leroy Cervantes pled guilty to the lesser included offense of no driver license. He was fined \$200, and will pay \$210 court costs. Investigating officer was Robert Shugart, DPS.

David Lynn Alexander pled guilty to possession of less than two

ounces marijuana. A 60 day jail Shannon Keith Allen pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior marijuana possession cause. He was sentenced to 14 days in jail with credit for 58 hours served. He must pay \$170 delinquent supervision fees.

Evigael Rascon Verdugo pled

guilty to assault causing bodily injury/family member. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must attend AA weekly meetings, serve 80 hours community service, and complete the batterer treatment program at his expense. Chris Ballard, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

Oscar Silvas Gonzalez pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .112/.111. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. Time payments will meet 4225 court costs, and he was fined \$600. He must attend weekly AA meetings and complete the first offender DWI program, and serve 24 hours community service.

Joey Martinez Guerra pled guilty to a first DWI, with blood test. Time payments will meet \$210 court costs, and he was fined \$500. He must spend 72 hours in jail, with credit for 7.5 hours served, complete the first offender DWI program and weekly AA meetings, perform 24 hours community service. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DWI.

Brad Alan Scoggins pled guilty to assault causes bodily injury, family violence. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must complete the batterer intervention prevention program, and attend weekly AA (narcotics) meetings.

Ralph Edward Elam pled guilty to DWI, blood test refused. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay \$270 court costs, a \$600 fine, \$237 restitution to DPS, and \$850 restitution to Dan Field. He must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 3.5 hours served, and serve 24 hours community service. Investigating Officer was Robert Shugart, DPS.

Cornelius Knelson Krahn pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .145/.143. He was sentenced to 21 days in jail, with credit for 28 days served. He will lose his license one year. Investigating officer was Roger Holguin, D.C. Police, and his attorney was Bill Helwig. sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$250 and will pay \$210 court costs. He must complete the drug offender education program at his expenses, attend AA (narcotics) weekly meetings, surrender his driver license one year, and serve 24 hours community service. Investigating officer was Inoc Valdez, Denver City Police.

Regino Martinez Diaz pled guilty to a subsequent DWI cause, open container. An 180 jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He will spend 10 days in jail with credit for one day, attend weekly AA meetings, surrender his license 90 days.

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Texas' Economic Future Depends On Available, Affordable Energy

The current energy crisis in California is enough to put many manufacturers and business owners across the country on edge. And if the West Coast energy woes spread, business activity in other states, particularly in the lucrative technology and manufacturing sectors, could be in jeopardy.

Fortunately, Texas does not appear to face similar problems, but more about that later. Economic researchers predict the condition of California's energy markets, further threatened by a long, hot summer, could cost that state's economy almost \$22 billion in lost productivity and eliminate up to 135,000 jobs.

Rolling blackouts alone in California could cost the state \$1 billion per hour of power outages, according to a study commissioned by the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. Under certain conditions, the study also warns of a possible recession. Several major technology corporations and manufacturers have indicated they may be forced to move operations out of California, and there are doubts the state can attract new businesses amidst warnings about the lack of reliable power. Threats of possible 60 to 70 percent rate increases for large manufacturers also jeopardize California's economy.

By contrast, as the second ranked state in the technology industry, Texas appears well positioned to handle its present energy needs and to meet the increasing demand of the future. Much of the credit goes to President Bush, who as governor, worked to ensure that Texas energy resources were

stable as well as increasingly environmentally friendly.

We are building new generating capacity. Since 1995, Texas has seen 22 new power plants come on line. And, of the 27 currently under construction, 15 are scheduled to begin operation by the time deregulation starts on Jan. 1. According to the Texas Public Utility Commission, another 31 plants have either been announced or are in the planning stage.

Our deregulation law avoided another potential pitfall by allowing utilities to secure long term deals for low cost power. Plus, for consumers, base rates now charged by large private utilities are frozen and they must decline 6 percent when retail competition begins on Jan. 1.

Texas is insulated from much of the power crunch because a variety of fuel sources are used to produce our electricity, including coal, which provides nearly 40 percent of the electricity consumed in our state.

In addition to being our nation's most abundant fuel source, coal is also affordable, only increasing in price 4 percent during the past 20 years. That compares to a 211 percent increase in the price of natural gas and a 51 percent increase in the price of crude oil.

And, electricity from coal is increasingly clean, thanks to significant technological advances and a \$50 billion investment in clean coal technology by America's coal based electric utilities.

Despite the vast benefits of electricity from coal and growing concerns about the availability of affordable electricity, some misguided extremists be-

lieve coal should be reduced or eliminated from our energy mix. A better alternative is to continue researching new clean coal technologies, which show promising results in efficiency and reduced emissions.

Across the nation, thousands of citizens, including myself, have become members of the bipartisan group Americans for Balanced Energy Choices (ABEC) in order to emphasize the need for a national energy policy that balances the growing demand for affordable electricity with the need to protect the environment.

Regulating coal out of our energy mix would have an especially devastating economic impact in Texas, creating supply shortages, forcing us to switch to more expensive power sources and sending electricity prices through the roof.

America's energy plan must take advantage of all available energy resources to stabilize our economic future and develop strategies that will meet our nation's growing demand for energy in a cost effective, environmentally responsible way.

By incorporating those elements, President Bush's recently unveiled national energy policy highlights the value of taking a reasoned, long term approach to the issue.

Mr. Talley of Austin is a former member of the Texas Interstate Oil and Gas Commission and the former senior counsel to Mobil Corp. Americans for Balanced Energy Choices, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization can be visited on the web at www.balancedenergy.org.

From Page One, "WHO TESTS THE TAAS?"

have to pass to graduate, science scores dropped from 91 percent passing to 66 percent if graded like TAAS II. Only forty eight percent would pass the social studies test, and more than 138,000 students would fail. TAAS is the more demanding test Texas school children will have to pass to graduate after 2003. Third graders will have to pass the reading section to be promoted to the fourth grade."

Writer Fisher also pointed out the 2001 TAAS required students to correctly answer fewer questions to pass the test. This year, only half the questions had to be answered correctly to

pass, while in years past seventy percent of the questions had to be answered correctly.

CNN made the Iconoclast material available to Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes, then asked his thoughts and assessment of the ongoing series of articles. Haynes commented,

"I Think Mr. Fisher makes a number of valid points about TAAS. Virtually all educators and school administrators have for years questioned some provisions of TAAS. The TAAS test originators, the firm or firms selling the tests to the state for all those millions of dollars, seem to visualize our

students across the entire state, in each testing grade, to be playing on a very level academic skills field. That is simply not the case. All eighth graders, or third graders are not created with equal levels of learning skills, and the tougher the TAAS test, the more difficult it will be for some of those students to achieve passing scores." Haynes compared the ever increasingly difficult testing mechanism to a sporting event; "At a track meet, the judges can keep raising the high jump or the pole vault bar, but only so far, until no one is able to clear it. I hope that's not what TEA or the Legislature has in mind - it won't work."

Larry Combest comments

Recently, the United Nations Economic and Social Council voted by secret ballot to remove the United States from the 53 member United Nations Human Rights Commission. Apparently, our neighbors around the world did not want to keep the U.S. on the same commission we were instrumental in establishing and did not think our country, a bastion of freedom and democracy, should judge human rights violations. However, one of the world's premier human rights violators, Sudan, was elected to the commission. This outrageous decision is another example of how the UN has strayed from its original purpose. How can a brutal regime currently operating like Sudan be held up in the global community as a magistrate of human justice?

Sudan has a horrific history of persecuting and allowing slavery of its own people. How ironic that the UN has chosen Sudan to be a protector of human rights for the world. This is why I have voted in the past against funding for the UN. It makes no sense to support an organization that does not have America's interest in mind, and which rejects the leadership we provide.

Recently I supported HR 2052, the Sudan Peace Act, which would facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan. That has been go-

ing on for 18 years. The Sudanese government has waged a brutal campaign against its civilians that has left over two million dead and over four million displaced. According to the World Food program, an estimated three million people will need emergency food assistance this year. Although the National Islam Front (NIF) government recently pledged to end the bombing of civilian targets, there is little evidence the conflict is nearing resolution. The current humanitarian crisis in Southern Sudan is considered one of the worst in decades.

HR 2052 condemns the war by the Sudanese government, and the associated human rights abuses, acknowledges the role oil has played in the war and expresses support for an internationally sanctioned peace process. It also urges the President to support the opposition party, and requires businesses engaged in commercial activity in Sudan to publicly disclose the extent of their activities in Sudan before raising money in American capital markets.

I strongly supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 422-2. I am concerned about the persecution of Christians in Sudan and other areas of the world. The US spends almost \$15 billion on foreign aid each year to help other countries to develop democratic governments and

promote individual freedom. Yet, Sudan enslaves its own people. We should not sit idly by and let this happen. It is our duty as a world leader to speak out against these crimes against humanity.

However, I do not believe using food and medicine is an effective tool to change the behavior of such regimes. As citizens of the most civil and just nation on earth, it is easy to forget many social atrocities still occur daily in other countries. These instances are a reprehensible reminder the freedoms we appreciate in the United States are not shared by all people.

Although we cannot legislate compassion and tolerance, I believe we can as individuals take a stand to respect our fellow humans. We can also teach our children to follow these principles. No matter what faith or religion a person follows, these are standards we can all observe, and these standards will make life better for all citizens of the world.

I believe the U.S. government must use its many diplomatic and economic tools to condemn nations that do not respect human rights. We must affirm the morals and values upon which our nation was founded. Our nation is a symbol of freedom around the world. Other nations look to us in times of crisis. This is an awesome responsibility, but one which we must accept.

Farm Price Barometer			
April 2001			
Commodity	Current Price	Parity Price	Percent of Parity
Crops			
Barley (bushel)	\$1.96	\$6.47	30
Corn (bushel)	1.91	6.62	29
Cotton, Upland (lb)	.436	1.68	26
Flaxseed (bushel)	3.84	11.40	34
Oats (bushel)	1.29	3.79	34
Peanuts (lb)	n/a	.682	n/a
Rice (cwt)	5.52	27.00	20
Sorghum Grain (cwt)	3.34	11.30	30
Soybeans (bushel)	4.18	14.40	29
Wheat (bushel)	2.84	9.70	29
Livestock			
Cattle (cwt)	76.50	159.00	48
Hogs (cwt)	46.70	104.00	45
Lambs (cwt)*	84.40	175.00	49
Dairy/Poultry			
Eggs, (dozen)	.665	1.56	41
Milk, All (cwt)	14.40	32.30	47
Milk, Mfg. (cwt)	12.70	29.39	43

* lamb prices are one month behind all other prices in this analysis

Note: Percent of parity represented by current market prices is shown under commodity titles. Parity is the price farmers would receive if farm prices had increased at the same rate as expenses, using 1910-14 as a base period. Statistics from USDA.

PHS grads hit jackpot in TILF scholarships

Six Plains High School 2001 graduates were recently notified they have been awarded a total of \$16,000 in Texas Inter-scholastic League Foundation scholarships. The scholarships are given on the basis of the students participation in the state UIL competitions.

Amanda Garcia and Eric Nixon each received an Abell-Hanger \$6000 scholarship, Emily Blair a \$1000 UIL music scholarship, Nicole Haynes a \$1000 Stark Foundation scholarship, Lesli Rowe a \$1000 Clark Foundation award, Lisa San Filippo a \$1000 Keitha Morris Memorial award. The six students were chosen from 628 applicants across the state. Some 446 new TILF scholarships were awarded this year.

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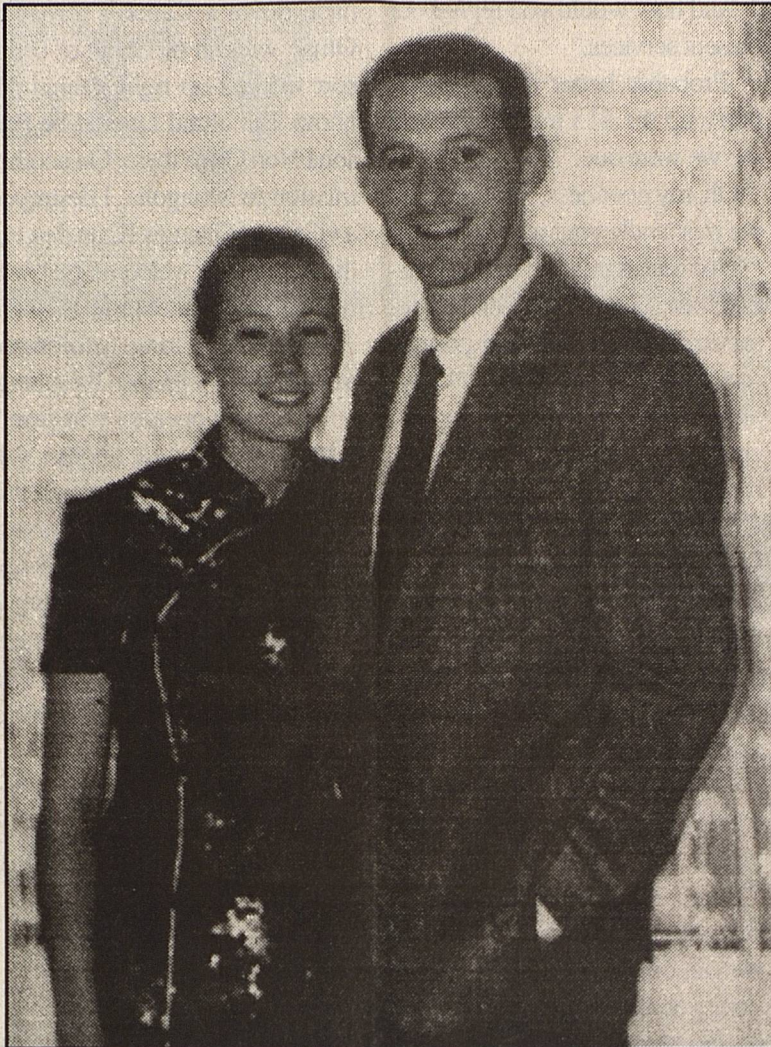
Lifelines & Styles

Lubbock Youth Symphony Orchestra To Perform For Fourth On Broadway Evening Fireworks Concert

The Lubbock Youth Symphony Orchestra (LYSO) is pleased to continue its tradition of performing for the Fourth on Broadway Evening Fireworks Concert. The public is encouraged not to miss this spectacular evening of music and fireworks. The concert begins at 7:30 pm. at Mackenzie Park. The fireworks portion of the concert will begin at approximately 10:00 pm. There is no admission charge for these events. The Lubbock Symphony Guild is a season sponsor of LYSO.

Students participating in the concert will attend rehearsals from June 30 to July 4. This rehearsal schedule is longer than previous years in order to accommodate the additional music to be learned as the members of the Lubbock Youth Symphony Orchestra will perform with "The Beatles" from Liverpool, England. In addition to music from the Fab Four, patriotic favorites to be performed will include selections from The Stars and Stripes Forever, The Washington Post March, Deep in the Heart of Texas and America the Beautiful. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Eric Fried.

McAdams' Coming Home



Ken and Kim McAdams are coming home, June 27th, after a year in China. He and his wife, Kim have been teaching at Shaoguan University for a year. Ken has established the Isaiah 6:8 Ministries, Inc. and with the addition of Kim his work force has doubled. They have been doing missionary work with the registered Chinese Church, teaching about 250 children. They also have been working with 2 leper colonies, an orphanage, and old folks home. They will be speaking and singing at the Plains Assembly of God Church Sunday night, July 1st at 6:00 pm., and the public is invited. With the help of your prayers and support they have had a very successful first year in China. After visiting in Texas and Missouri they will be returning this August 30th for another year of teaching and ministry.

ATTENTION LADIES!
Fruit cobblers are needed for the noon barbecue at the Old Settlers Reunion. You may pick up serving cups at the Dairy Queen, and the cobblers should be delivered to Stanford Park no later than 11 A.M. Saturday, Aug. 4.

Ranch Estate Planning Seminar, August 8 & 9

Estate taxes are a major problem for ranch owners and their heirs. Dr. Wayne Hayenga, and Attorney with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, will hold a Ranch Estate Planning Seminar on August 8 and 9, 2001, in conjunction with the Annual Beef Cattle Short Course. The Seminar will start at 1:30 pm. on August 8, and conclude at 4:30 pm. on August 9, 2001. It will be held at the College Station Conference Center.

Topics covered will include the basic tools of estate planning: Wills, Living Trust, and Powers of Attorney. But most of the time will be spent on income and estate tax saving plans for ranching families. Irrevocable trusts, generation skipping trusts, bypass trusts, property ownership, community/separate property, special use valuation for ranches, partnerships and corporations will be discussed in the context of the gift and estate tax rules.

Dr. Hayenga is an excellent communicator. He delivers a top notch educational program emphasizing key points with an entertaining style illustrating estate and income tax law provisions with practical examples that make learning a pleasure. His teaching makes full use of his broad background and practical experience as a farmer, banker, and lawyer.

Registration fee is \$100.00 per person. It includes seminar materials, snacks on Sunday evening and lunch on Thursday, as well as refreshment breaks. For more information, call Sharon at 979-845-2226, Fax 979-847-9374 or E-mail: w-hayenga@tamu.edu., or swehring@tamu.edu.

"Reduce Cancer Risks With Sun Sense"

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer today. Not following some sort of sun protection is putting you at unnecessary risk. Avoiding sun burn by using protective clothing and sunscreen is the best way to keep your skin healthy. Limit exposure to midday sun, between 10 am. and 3 pm. If you must be out, choose long sleeved shirts, long pants, and wear a hat. "You can prevent 70 percent of cancer inducing rays from getting to your skin by wearing a broad rimmed hat," Dr. John Epstein, Clinical Professor of Dermatology at University of California said. Use sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher. Apply sunscreen at least an hour before going into the sun and again after swimming or perspiring. You may get burned on a cloudy day, and the sun rays can reach down into three feet of water. Beware at high altitudes too.

Whatever your skin type, do a monthly self exam to note any moles, blemishes or birthmarks. Check them once a month, if you notice any changes in size, shape, or color, or if a sore does not heal, see your Physician. The different types of skin cancers are highly curable when detected early.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SAYS:

SLIP ON A SHIRT SLOP ON SUNSCREEN SLAP ON A HAT



CSW Summer Session II

Registration is currently in process at College of the Southwest for Summer Session II, which begins July 5 and ends August 1.

Glenna Ohaver, Registrar at CSW, encourages students to register as soon as possible in

order to secure the classes of their choice. Some classes have already closed at capacity.

Students who will be registering at CSW for the first time will need to contact the Admissions Office, and returning students will need to contact their advisors. For advisors' names or for more information about registration, students may call College of the Southwest at 505-392-6561.

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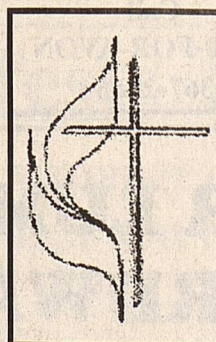
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Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

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Come grow in CHRIST with us!

Start thinking Rodeo & Old Settlers Reunion !!

June 29 through July 1: Holly Cox (Former Miss Arizona and former 20th Century Model of the Year) will be traveling to Denver City, Tx to do a 3-day Youth Revival Concert/Speaking engagement at Bethel Baptist Church. June 29 - 7:00 pm. (Youth), June 30 - 7:00 pm. (Youth), July 1 - 10:45 am. (All). For more information please call 1-800-456-2026.

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From The Hack

I returned from the golf course last Wednesday, tired, hot, famished, and made the mistake of telling Bride, "I hate the game!" She sniffed, and said, "That's because you lost money again, right?" That burned a bit, and I humbly answered, "Well, yes, I guess. But just a little."

She didn't sniff, she snorted, "Oh, yeah, like 15 or 20 bucks, maybe more."

"No, no dear, we don't gamble for that kind of money... it's usually two-bits per nine holes, and maybe a milk shake for the big winner."

She snorted again, and I thought I would have to resuscitate her. I tried to reason; "You don't understand. I am merely trying to perfect my swing, to look more like Tiger Woods."

She merely glared at me seven full minutes, and declared, "OK, I admit, I admire the young man. I think he's going to be the best golfer in history. Now, tell me, what portion of his game do you possibly think you could steal - maybe I should say copy?"

I perused the question 18 minutes, and finally answered, "I would like to copy his smile when he accepts the winners check."

She snapped, "The only way that will happen is if you are re-carinated, and in the process your basic pigments seriously change to his darker hue. Plus, big boy, you'll have to learn a bit more about the game before you ever smile before a TV camera - like actually hit the ball three out of five tries." I frantically thought, "My God, has she secretly been sneaking down to the course watching me... maybe even talking and laughing with my buddies about my abilities?"

But now, I began to think positively, and was feeling better all the time. "You're right honey, I just MUST have more practice. Since you agree I need more work, I think I'll start playing... er, I mean PRACTICING each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. That leaves you plenty of time to take the paper's photos to Hobbs Saturday, and all that other small stuff you do in your spare time."

I received a 110% glare, and Bride whispered, or, was it a hiss—"The day you play the stupid game three times a week, your clothes and clubs will be in the Allsup's dumpster, frog head!"

So much for attempting to improve my game.

Had an interesting experience recently. The Bride was gone, and I tried to lay my body out for a nap. Naturally, the phone rang. The conversation went like this:

"Is this Mr. Dyer, of CNN?"

"I only wish it was - this is Mr. Dyer of CCN."

"Oh, I'm sorry. Are you acquainted with Pitney-Bowes mailing services?"

"Intimately," I replied.

"And how would you regard our present services?"

"Probably better if you would hurry up the \$15 refund you told me we were due."

"Oh, my goodness, Mr. Dyer, did we mishandle your account?"

"Not necessarily when it was active, but since we cancelled your services, and mailed your postage meter back to you some 39 days ago, we have yet to get the \$15 credit you promised on the statement we received 19 days ago."

"So you truly DIDN'T like our service?"

"Don't be redundant. The fact we mailed your machine back, the fact we told the previous very hard to persuade business rep we were cancelling the service, and the overdue refund tends to make me think we weren't too happy with your services."

"Mr. Dyer, may I tell you of a marvelous new series of services we can offer new clients. I mean, since you are no longer a client,

you would be eligible for astounding NEW client service features, don't you see? Plus, an all expense paid trip for you and a companion to either Oman or Mongolia, and you would be the recipient of our latest literary bomb shell, "How to screw the Postal Department with P-B equipment!" I thought a moment, and said, "I was a Navy Seal, and on special mission years ago, I stuffed a grenade down a Camel's throat in Oman with an oil Sheik of some sort saddled up right behind it's hump. I'm afraid I would be Persona Non Grata there. On another mission to Mongolia, I destroyed a village of Ghengis Khan descendants, and my welcome mat was burned."

There was a long, prolonged sound of very heavy breathing, when the tele-operator whispered, "Mr. Dyer, we won't bother you anymore. But sir, you interest me terribly. I am fascinated by violent types. Could we possibly meet and let me just caress your thigh while you slapped me with a grenade, even a frozen mackerel, and told me more of your erotic experiences?"

Possibly my following rather crude language was responsible, but there have been no more P-B calls.

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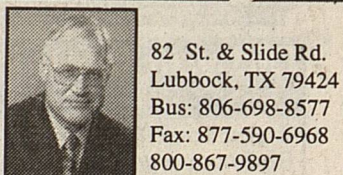
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Notice of Public Hearing
Yoakum County, Texas
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County cordially invites the public to attend a hearing on the topic of county redistricting on the 27th day of June 2001, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Yoakum County Courthouse in Plains, Texas. The Commissioners Court is considering one or more alternate plans for the redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts. Changes in the existing boundaries of each Commissioners Court precinct will also have an impact on election precincts, polling places, and Justice of Peace/Constable precincts. Public comment is sincerely solicited.
Dallas Brewer
Yoakum County Judge

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School Depository Bid
Sealed bids will be accepted in the office of James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, until 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 9, 2001. Bids will be opened and read at that time. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Plains ISD, Box, 479, Plains, Texas 79355 or calling 806-456-7483. Plains ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities and to accept the bid the District considers most advantageous.



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